



Many Hands Make For Small Work

—By Robert KA5WSS

There's no specific topic for this month's meeting. I recently started a new job. My work hours have shifted a bit and I was buried in wrapping things up at the old job. So some VOMARC tasks, like keeping up a list of meeting topics, did not get completed.

What I'll try to do is get a video to show at this month's meeting, just as we have done in the past. What will the topic be? It's a mystery, because I have not yet found the right one. If you have some detailed ideas please send me a note.

A topic of discussion we also need to discuss is a July/August BBQ that was mentioned at the last meeting. John (W8EWL) has graciously offered up his home as the location for a VOMARC picnic, a role previously held by Jim (K6UUW - SK). We'll need to decide on what date works for the most people. The candidate dates are Jul 31, Aug 1, Aug 7 or Aug 8. Check your calendars and let's make a decision.

One of the ways in which my shifting work hours will affect what I do with the club is the Breakfast Net. I have meetings at 7:30 AM now so I won't be able to check in. The things discussed during those nets often made their way into the "Who's Doing What" column in the

newsletter. Will someone else collect up these bits of info for inclusion in the newsletter going forward? I liked hearing about what others were up to and I suspect others do as well.

Another way you can help me and the club out is to keep those articles and ideas flowing to Eileen for inclusion in the newsletter.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, July 21, 2021, 7:30pm

Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

Topic: Mystery Video

Minutes of the June 16 Meeting

Meeting was held together on ZOOM by KA5WSS

Members: KA5WSS (Robert), KD6FIL (Dave), KG6QNT (Eileen), W8EWL (John), KE6HID (Andrew), KM6ZUC (Bruce), N6TTV (Carl), N6LY (Elizabeth), K6YD (Kevin), KF6FZM (Dick), K6ZMF (Jack), NJ6E (Stan), WD6BOR (Darrel), W1EJ (Ed), WB6TMH (Mike), Admin?

Guest: None

Meeting called to order at 19:32 by KA5WSS

MINUTES

Minutes from the May meeting accepted as written.

NEWS LETTER EDITOR

No Report

VE LIAISON

VE Session is scheduled for August 28. Planning on 10 candidates per session. Need to RSVP. Plan to use the Sonoma PD Training Room.

RADIO OFFICER

No Report

STATION TRUSTEE

Looking for a trailer to mount the crank up tower donated by the family of K6UUW. No leads on a trailer, might end up building one. KM6ZUC said he is ready to start welding.

TREASURER

Paid the annual insurance bill.

Currently have \$5013 in the bank, less the insurance check that has not cleared yet.

VOMARC set it up to accept dues online.

Still have not purchased a printer.

SECRETARY

No Updates. The VOMARC Breakfast on the Air is going well.

VICE PRESIDENT

No Report

PRESIDENT

Newsletter is looking good. Please continue to submit articles for the newsletter.

There are some updates to the VOMARC webpage. Stop by and check it out.

<http://vomarc.org/>

There is a Safety Fair on Saturday, August 7 from 9 AM to 4 PM at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds.

NEW BUSINESS

July meeting – No items have been set and it is a good time for a BBQ meeting. Details to follow.

OLD BUSINESS

VOMARC Hamfest – scheduled for October 2 at the Congregational Church on Spain Street thanks to WD6BOR's efforts. More details to follow. Website has been updated to reflect the upcoming event.

KI6JNU coordinating the Boy Scouts doing JOTA on October 15-17. More information to follow.

Point Reyes Lighthouse on the Air is being coordinated by KG6N and is scheduled for August 21. Waiting for the insurance certificate to submit the application.

The Sonoma County DMR net is still going at 1830 on Thursdays on talk group 31707.

MYSTERY BOX: Jack, K6ZMF has the box and the Mystery Box program is on hold for a while

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM: BBQ – Details to follow

PROGRAM: Field Day Planning

Meeting adjourned at 2015ish.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

June VHF Contest

Six VOMARC members in total, that we could hear, gathered on Saturday afternoon for some quick QSOs in the [ARRL June VHF Contest](#). After gathering on 146.54 MHz FM simplex for some quick round robin contacts a few ventured to 6M. On that band Stan was able to test out the 6M rig he recently purchased and documented in last month's newsletter.

In total, I worked 54 stations and accumulated 24 grid multipliers. The score of 1,368 was much better than last year's attempt.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

BOUVET ISLAND DXPEDITION CANCELLED

The eagerly awaited [DXpedition to Bouvet Island has been cancelled](#). Worse yet, the ship

expected to take them to the island has been sold. The Braveheart ship was THE ship for transporting Amateur Radio operators to a number of exotic locations. If you've seen many DXpedition videos you have witnessed Braveheart at work, whether you knew it or not.

For a time the ship was listed for sale online again, but that listed appears to have been removed. What does the future hold for Amateur Radio DXpeditioning to rare islands?

Update: The DXpedition crew may still hold out some [hope that things will work out](#).

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

PTT Alternate Definition?

I've heard more than a few folks on VOMARC nets log in with something that sounds like "6ABC". What happened to the prefix? Chances are the operator started talking at the exact moment they *started* to press the Push To Talk (PTT) button on their radio. The timing is just a little bit out of whack.

It takes time for an operator's finger to finish pressing the PTT button to the point the radio is actually keyed up. Then, it takes a bit more time for most radio circuits to power up and stabilize to the point that they are accurately transmitting audio. The operator's prefix was likely uttered during this short, but critical time frame, before the radio was really ready.

Volkswagen produced a [commercial in which they played on their Sign And Drive versus Sign Then Drive campaign](#). I propose a similar change in which we think of the humble PTT button as a **Push Then Talk** button to ensure the radio is in good transmitting form for at least a fraction of a second *before* we start talking.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Who's Doing What

Sanford (N7PIB) has worked at least 1,319 unique parks as part of the [Parks on the Air](#) (POTA) program.

Carl (N6TVN) is now sporting a new callsign N6TTV. A better sounding callsign on CW was the draw I presume?

After checking into the VOMARC weekly net on July 14th, **Robert (KA5WSS)** decided to see if anything was happening on 6M. He ended up working about 30 stations and snagging at least 8 new grids for [VUCC](#) out of the effort. Most of the activity was focused in the Pacific Northwest, though stations from Alaska to Georgia were heard, if not worked.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Misc

- There was no VOMARC Board Meeting this month.
- Andrew (KE6HID) provided a link to an excellent video entitled, [How to be a ham radio operator during public service events and nets](#) produced by the Marin Amateur Radio Society.
- The [Northern California DX Foundation](#) (NCDXF) has made available Martti Laine's (OH2BH) entertaining DX book, ["Where Do We Go Next?"](#), for free in PDF format.
- [Pole Vault](#), the world's first troposcatter communications system was recently featured on Wikipedia's home page.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Field Day 2021

Field Day has come and gone. It was so good to get back together!

It was another successful event! We ate too much and got to play with radios. We set up three stations. We had a 20m mono bander, an 80m windom, a tri-bander (20,15,10) and an R7 vertical to work with. The crew made 224 CW contacts and 88 SSB contacts.

Band	CW	Power	Phone	Power	Total
80	10	100	0	0	10
40	46	100	21	100	67
20	139	100	66	100	205
15	29	100	1	100	30
Total	224		88		312



—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

—Photos by Dave KD6FIL and Phil Danskin



More Field Day Photos...



DXpedition to Temecula!

Carl, N6TTV, traveled to Temecula for a DXpedition! Southern California is a world away! It was actually a family visit with radio as time allowed. Here is what Carl sent:

Hi, I'm struggling with 13 Colonies pile ups on 20, got NC and PA so far but worked LZ1K on 15. Running the K-2 full throttle at 15 w into 9:1 unun and 41 ft wire on top of patio cover at 8 ft high and 10 ft counterpoise laying on the floor. Made 6 q's in the Sunday SST. 73, Carl, N6TTV.

And later:

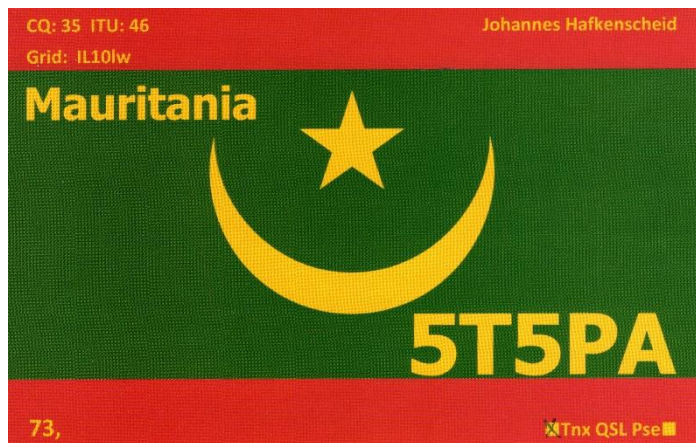
later on 15 I snagged CT3MD and K2K in New Hampshire. Life is good!

Now getting Reverse Beacon Network hits on 12, 15, and 17.

There are always adventures and you don't need a passport to have fun. Just a radio and an antenna.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

QSL Card Inbox



PA5X has been very active from Mauritania as 5T5PA. This card confirms FT8 contacts on the 15M, 40M and 80M bands.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

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A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

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Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC."—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—or—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

**2021 ACS
NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2021 VOMARC
NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2021

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.